

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

February 10, 2015

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Dave Rollo, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Rebecca Swanson, Andrea Jobe, Stephanie Richards, Jana McGee, Joe Kielar, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: Bill Brown, Randy Cassady

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Gwen White

Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Announcements:**

The Monroe County Energy Challenge kicks off tomorrow.

There will be a forum on how congregations can pay for solar panels on February 1 at 3:30.

Brandon Pitcher will be presenting the "emerging blue economy" on January 27 at Farm.

The Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Bike Ride will be held on February 7 at 10am.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The December meeting's minutes were approved unanimously

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Report from the Chair:**

Molly described a number of interests for initiatives in 2015, including connecting with other commissions, suggesting and inviting speakers, updates on IU sustainability efforts, supporting the Hoosier to Hoosier Sale, supporting efforts to reduce plastic bags locally.

Other ideas for initiatives or speakers:

- Sycamore Land Trust 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,
- have Local First Bloomington come back,
- presentation on cooperative business model,
- developing Bloomington as a food hub,

- Doug Tallemey (Bringing Nature Home, The Living Landscape) about bringing habitat into urban and suburban areas – he will be here this spring and might agree to come to a regular meeting or a specially scheduled meeting
- Certified Tech Park development – interest in exploring other types of development in this area – have someone from Planning or Economic & Sustainable Development
- Solar energy and wind farms
- Peter Bane on permaculture

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

Jacqui and Molly gave an overview of the Monroe County Energy Challenge, which will kick off tomorrow. Jacqui shared materials to be posted at public locations and with potential partner organizations.

Molly noted an interest in having a discussion group to focus on behavior change. One method could involve setting small personal goals.

Two new members were present and introduced themselves. Stephanie Richards just moved back to Bloomington after having lived abroad in Singapore and England, where she worked on incorporating sustainability into curriculum, among other things.

Rebecca Swanson is a career and tech ed instructor in early childhood education for the MCCSC, and is thinking about how to make connections between efforts at the schools and other parts of the communities.

The Education Committee of the Monroe County Energy Challenge is having a get together for all the education contacts on February 21 at 5pm at Upland, and all are welcome to attend

### **Committee Report:**

Environmental Commission: Has a new chair (Dedaimia Whitney) and co-chair (Andrew Carty). Jeff will send a Doodle to set up a meeting between the EC and BCOS to talk about the future.

Tree Commission: a 300-year-old white oak is going to need to be removed because of rot. The wood will be salvaged, and there may be a ceremony to celebrate the tree's life.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC): Rebecca is interested in serving in this position.

Bring Your Bag Bloomington: ready to start writing an ordinance, and are thinking of charging for bags rather than banning them outright. Meetings are continuing with local businesses, so this could change, but so far they have not found significant opposition. The committee is looking to really launch the initiative around Earth Day, and to accompany this with a large-scale public education campaign.

### **New Business:**

Dave R. re-introduced the effort to adopt a local food charter. The charter has been amended slightly since BCOS signed a letter of support for the effort last year.

Dave would like to bring this to City Council for adoption and anticipates that it will appear on the agenda in the next couple of months. He encouraged BCOS members to attend to express their support once the discussion has been scheduled.

Dave noted that there are continuing concerns about urban deer. Data is being collected on deer migration patterns, deer mortality, etc. as part of a project at Ball State to help quantify the issue and help identify possible policy solutions. Dave is considering suggesting the formation of a deer management team, depending on the findings of the study. He would like to present more details on the idea at a future BCOS meeting.

The draft Monroe County rapidly urbanizing area plan is available for comment on [mindmixer.com](http://mindmixer.com)

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.